What is claimed is:

1.   A multicast delivery system comprising:

a delivery server which enciphers delivery data by using a current use cipher key to generate

5 enciphered data and transmits a multicast packet containing said enciphered data and a current use key identifier indicative of a pair of said current use cipher key and a current use decipher key as current use keys;

10   a key management server which is connected with said delivery server through a network, holds as a current use key data, a set of said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier, and transmits a set of said current use decipher key and

15 said current use key identifier as a current use decipherment key data in response to a current use key data request; and

a client terminal which is connected with said delivery server and said key management server

20 through said network, receives said multicast packet from said deliver server, issues said current use key data request to said key management server to receive said current use decipherment key data from said key management server, holds said set of said current use

25 decipher key and said current use key identifier, and deciphers said enciphered data contained in said multicast packet by using said current use decipher

key when said current use key identifier contained in said multicast packet is coincident with said current use key identifier held in said client terminal.

5   2.   The multicast delivery system according to claim 1, wherein said delivery server generates and holds as a current use encipherment key data, a set of said current use cipher key, said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier, and transmits

10 a set of said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier as said current use decipherment key data to said key management server, and

      said key management server holds said current

15 use decipher key and said current use key identifier as said current use decipherment key data.

  3.   The multicast delivery system according to claim 2, wherein said delivery server sets a current

20 use key remaining effective time data to said current use key data, and transmits a set of said current use decipher key, said current use key identifier, and said current use key remaining effective time data as said current use decipherment key data to said key

25 management server,

      said key management server holds said current use decipherment key data, and

said delivery server, said key management server and said client terminal decreases said current use key remaining effective time data as time elapses.

5   4.   The multicast delivery system according to claim 3, wherein said delivery server generates as a next use key data, a set of a next use cipher key, a next use decipher key, a next use key identifier indicative of a pair of said next use cipher key and a

10   next use key remaining effective time data, when said current use key remaining effective time data becomes a first present value, and transmits a set of said next use decipher key, said next use key identifier, and said next use key remaining effective time data to

15   said key management server as a next use decipherment key data, and

said key management server holds said next use decipher key data.

20   5.   The multicast delivery system according to claim 4, wherein said client terminal issues a next use key request to said key management server when said current use key remaining effective time data becomes a second present value smaller than said first

25   preset value, and receives and holds said next use decipherment key data from said key management server.

6.   The multicast delivery system according to claim 5, wherein said delivery server enciphers said delivery data by using said next use cipher key as said current use cipher key after said current use key

5   remaining effective time data becomes 0.

7.   The multicast delivery system according to claim 1, wherein said delivery server issues a current use key data generating request to said key management

10   server,

said key management server generates and holds as a current use key data, a set of said current use cipher key, said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier in response to said current

15   use key data generating request, and transmits a set of said current use cipher key and said current use key identifier as a current use encipherment key data to said delivery server, and

said delivery server holds said current use

20   encipherment key data.

8.   The multicast delivery system according to claim 7, wherein said key management server sets a current use key remaining effective time data to said

25   current use key data, and transmits a set of said current use decipher key, said current use key identifier, and said current use key remaining

effective time data as said current use encipherment key data to said delivery server,

said delivery server holds said current use encipherment key data, and

5   said delivery server, said key management server and said client terminal decreases said current use key remaining effective time data as time elapses.

9.   The multicast delivery system according to

10 claim 8, wherein said delivery server issues a next use key data generating request to said key management server, when said current use key remaining effective time data becomes a first present value,

said key management server generates and

15 holds as a next use key data, a set of a next use cipher key, a next use decipher key, a next use key identifier indicative of a pair of said next use cipher key and a next use key remaining effective time data in response to said next use key data generating

20 request, and transmits a set of said next use encipher key, said next use key identifier, and said next use key remaining effective time data to said delivery server as a next use encipherment key data, and

said delivery server holds said next use

25 encipherment key data.

10.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 9, wherein said client terminal issues a next

use key request to said key management server when

said current use key remaining effective time data

becomes a second present value smaller than said first

5   preset value, and receives and holds said next use

decipherment key data of said next use decipher key,

said next use key identifier, and said next use key

remaining effective time data from said key management

server.

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11.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 10, wherein said delivery server enciphers said

delivery data by using said next use cipher key as

said current use cipher key after said current use key

15   remaining effective time data becomes 0.

12.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 1, further comprising:

        a plurality of said delivery servers; and

20   a plurality of said client terminals,

        wherein each of said plurality of delivery

server issues a next use key data generating request

to said key management server while using said current

use cipher key,

25   said key management server generates and

holds as a next use key data, a set of a next use

cipher key, a next use decipher key and a current use

key identifier indicative of a pair of said next use

cipher key and said next use decipher key in response

to said next use key data generating request, and

transmits a set of said next use cipher key and said

5   next use key identifier as a next use encipherment key

data to said delivery server, and

said delivery server holds said next use

encipherment key data.

10   13.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 12, wherein each of said plurality of client

terminals issues a next use decipher key request to

said key management server when said client terminal

does not hold said current use key identifier

15   contained in said multicast packet,

said key management server transmits a set of

said next use decipher key and said next use key

identifier to said client terminal as a next use

decipherment key data, and

20   said client terminal holds said next use

decipherment key data.

14.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 12, wherein each of said plurality of delivery

25   servers issues a key data change previous notice to

said plurality of clients,

each of said plurality of client terminals

issues a next use decipher key request to said key

management server in response to said key data change

previous notice,

said key management server transmits a set of

5 said next use decipher key and said next use key

identifier to said client terminal as a next use

decipherment key data, and

said client terminal holds said next use

decipherment key data.

10

15. The multicast delivery system according to

claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of said delivery servers; and

a plurality of said client terminals,

15 wherein said key management server comprises:

a master server; and

a plurality of slave servers,

wherein each of said plurality of delivery

servers issues a next use key data generating request

20 to said master server while using said current use

cipher key,

said master server generates and holds as a

next use key data, a set of a next use cipher key, a

next use decipher key and a current use key identifier

25 indicative of a pair of said next use cipher key and

said next use decipher key in response to said next

use key data generating request, transmits a set of

said next use cipher key and said next use key

identifier as a next use encipherment key data to said

delivery server, and transmits a set of said next use

decipher key and said next use key identifier as a

5 next use decipherment key data to said plurality of

slave servers,

each of said plurality of slave servers holes

said next use decipherment key data, and

said delivery server holds said next use

10 encipherment key data.

16.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of client

terminals issues a next use decipher key request to

15 any of said plurality of slave servers when said

client terminal does not hold said current use key

identifier contained in said multicast packet,

said slave server transmits said next use

decipherment key data to said client terminal, and

20   said client terminal holds said next use

decipherment key data.

17.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of delivery

25 servers issues a key data change previous notice to

said plurality of clients,

each of said plurality of client terminals

issues a next use decipher key request to any of said

plurality of slave servers in response to said key

data change previous notice,

said slave server transmits said next use

5 decipherment key data to said client terminal, and

said client terminal holds said next use

decipherment key data.

18.   The multicast delivery system according to

10 claim 1, wherein said key management server detects a

data amount of said multicast packets and charges a

fee to said client terminal based on said detected

data amount.

15 19.   The multicast delivery system according to

claim 1, wherein said client terminal issues said key

data request to said key management server, and

said key management server detects the number

of said key data requests and charges a fee to said

20 client terminal based on said detected number of key

data requests.

20.   A delivery server in a multicast delivery

system, comprising:

25   a key data management table which holds a

current use cipher key and a current use key

identifier for said current use cipher key; and

an enciphering section which refers to said
key data management table to acquires said current use
cipher key, enciphers delivery data by using said
current use cipher key to generate enciphered data and

5   transmits a multicast packet containing said
enciphered data and said current use key identifier
indicative of a pair of said current use cipher key
and a current use decipher key as current use keys.

10 21.   The delivery server according to claim 20,
further comprising:

a key managing section which generates as a
current use encipherment key data, a set of said
current use cipher key, said current use decipher key

15 and said current use key identifier, stores said
current use cipher key and said current use key
identifier in said key data management table, and
transmits a set of said current use decipher key and
said current use key identifier as a current use

20 decipherment key data to a key management server.

22.   The delivery server according to claim 20,
further comprising:

a key managing section which generates as a
25 current use encipherment key data, a set of said
current use cipher key, said current use decipher key,
said current use key identifier and a current use key

remaining effective time data, stores said current use

cipher key, said current use key identifier and said

current use key remaining effective time data in said

key data management table, and transmits a set of said

5 current use decipher key, said current use key

identifier and said current use key remaining

effective time data as a current use decipherment key

data to a key management server.

10 23.   The delivery server according to claim 20,

further comprising:

    a key managing section which issues a next

use key data generating request, and receives and

stores a next use cipher key and a next use key

15 identifier in said key data management table.

24.   The delivery server according to claim 20,

wherein said key data management table stores a

current use key remaining effective time data in

20 addition to said current use cipher key and said

current use key identifier, and

    said delivery server further comprises:

    a key managing section which decrease said

current use key remaining effective time data as time

25 elapses, issues a next use key data generating

request, when said current use key remaining effective

time data becomes a first preset value, and receives

and stores a next use cipher key and a next use key identifier in said key data management table.

25.   The delivery server according to claim 20,
5   further comprising:

        a key managing section which issues a use key data change previous notice to client terminals, while using said current use cipher key.

10 26.   A key management server in a multicast delivery system, comprising:

        a key data management table which holds a current use decipher key and a current use key identifier for said current use decipher key; and
15   a key managing section which reads out said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier in response to a key data request to transmit to a request issuing client.

20 27.   The key management server according to claim 26, wherein said key managing section generates as a current use key data, a set of a current use cipher key, said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier in response to a key data
25 generating request, stores said current use key data in said key data management table, and transmits a set of said current use cipher key and said current use

key identifier as a current use encipherment key data to a request generating deliver server.

28.   The key management server according to claim 27, wherein said key managing section generates as a next use key data, a set of a next use cipher key, a next use decipher key and a next use key identifier in response to a next key data generating request, stores said next use key data in said key data management table, and transmits a set of said next use cipher key and said next use key identifier as a next use encipherment key data to a request generating deliver server.

29.   The key management server according to claim 26, wherein said key managing section receives said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier from a deliver server, and stores in said key data management table, and receives a next use decipher key and a next use key identifier from said deliver server, and stores in said key data management table.

30.   The key management server according to claim 26, wherein said key data management table holds a current use key remaining effective time data in addition to said current use decipher key and said

current use key identifier, and

said key managing section decreases said
current use key remaining effective time data as time
elapses, reads out said current use decipher key, said
5 current use key identifier and said current use key
remaining effective time data in response to a key
data request to transmit to a request issuing client.

31. The key management server according to claim
10 30, wherein said key managing section generates as a
current use key data, a set of a current use cipher
key, said current use decipher key, said current use
key identifier and said current use key remaining
effective time data in response to a key data
15 generating request, stores said current use key data
in said key data management table, and transmits a set
of said current use cipher key and said current use
key identifier as a current use encipherment key data
to a request generating deliver server.

20

32. The key management server according to claim
30, wherein said key managing section generates as a
next use key data, a set of a next use cipher key, a
next use decipher key, a next use key identifier and a
25 next use key remaining effective time data in response
to a next use key data generating request, stores said
next use key data in said key data management table,

and transmits a set of said next use cipher key and said next use key identifier as a current use encipherment key data to a request generating deliver server.

5

33.   The key management server according to claim 32, wherein said key managing section reads out said next use decipher key, said next use key identifier and said next use key remaining effective time data in

10   response to a next use key data request to transmit to a request issuing client.

34.   The key management server according to claim 30, wherein said key managing section receives said

15   current use decipher key, said current use key identifier and a current use key remaining effective time data from a deliver server, stores in said key data management table, receives a next use decipher key, a next use key identifier and a next use key

20   remaining effective time data from said deliver server, and stores in said key data management table.

35.   The key management server according to claim 34, wherein said key managing section transmits a set

25   of said next use cipher key, said next use key identifier and said next use key remaining effective time data as a next use encipherment key data to a

request generating deliver server.

36.   The key management server according to claim 26, further comprising a key managing section detects a data amount of said multicast packets and charges a fee to said client terminal based on said detected data amount.

37.   The key management server according to claim 26, further comprising a key managing section detects the number of said key data requests and charges a fee to said client terminal based on said detected number of key data requests.

38.   A client terminal in a multicast delivery system, comprising:

a key data management table which holds a current use decipher key and a current use key identifier for said current use decipher key; and

a key managing section which issues a current use key data request to acquire a current use key data of said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier, stores said current use key data in said key data management table, determines whether a transmission key identifier contained in a multicast packet with an enciphered data is present in said key data management table, deciphers said enciphered data

by using said decipher key stored in said key data
management, when it is determined that said
transmission key identifier is present, issues a next
use key data request to acquire a next use key data of
5   a next use decipher key and a next use key identifier,
when it is determined that said transmission key
identifier is not present, and stores said next use
key data in said key data management table.

10   39.   The client terminal according to claim 38,
wherein said key data management table holds a current
use key remaining effective time data in addition to
said current use decipher key and said current use key
identifier, and
15   said key managing section decreases said
current use key remaining effective time data as time
elapses, issues said next use key data request when
said current use key remaining effective time data
becomes a predetermined value, acquires said next use
20   key data of said next use decipher key and said next
use key identifier, and stores said next use key data
in said key data management table.

40.   A software product executable by a computer
25   and storing a program executing functions of:
             referring to a key data management table to
acquire a current use cipher key;

enciphering delivery data by using said

current use cipher key to generate enciphered data;

and

transmitting a multicast packet containing

5   said enciphered data and said current use key

identifier indicative of a pair of said current use

cipher key and a current use decipher key as current

use keys.

10   41.   The software product according to claim 40,

wherein said program further executes the functions

of:

generating a current use encipherment key

data of said current use cipher key, said current use

15   decipher key and said current use key identifier;

storing said current use cipher key and said

current use key identifier in said key data management

table; and

transmitting a set of said current use

20   decipher key and said current use key identifier as a

current use decipherment key data to a key management

server.

42.   The software product according to claim 40,

25   wherein said program further executes the functions

of:

generating a current use encipherment key

data of said current use cipher key, said current use

decipher key, said current use key identifier and a

current use key remaining effective time data;

storing said current use cipher key, said

5   current use key identifier and said current use key

remaining effective time data in said key data

management table, and transmits a set of said current

use decipher key, said current use key identifier and

said current use key remaining effective time data as

10   a current use decipherment key data to a key

management server.

43.   The software product according to claim 40,

wherein said program further executes the function of:

15   issuing a next use key data generating

request, and receives and stores a next use cipher key

and a next use key identifier in said key data

management table.

20 44.   The software product according to claim 40,

wherein said program further executes the functions

of:

storing a current use key remaining effective

time data in addition to said current use cipher key

25   and said current use key identifier in said key data

management table;

decreasing said current use key remaining

effective time data as time elapses;

issuing a next use key data generating request, when said current use key remaining effective time data becomes a first preset value; and

5   receiving and storing a next use cipher key and a next use key identifier in said key data management table.

45.   The software product according to claim 40,
10 wherein said program further executes the functions of:

issuing a use key data change previous notice to client terminals, while using said current use cipher key.

15

46.   A software product executable by a computer and storing a program executing functions of:

storing a current use decipher key and a current use key identifier for said current use
20 decipher key in a key data management table; and

reading out said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier in response to a key data request to transmit to a request issuing client.

25 47.   The software product according to claim 46, wherein said program further executes the functions of:

generating as a current use key data, a set
of a current use cipher key, said current use decipher
key and said current use key identifier in response to
a key data generating request; and

5   storing said current use key data in said key
data management table, and transmits a set of said
current use cipher key and said current use key
identifier as a current use encipherment key data to a
request generating deliver server.

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48.   The software product according to claim 47,
wherein said program further executes the functions
of:

generating as a next use key data, a set of a
15 next use cipher key, a next use decipher key and a
next use key identifier in response to a next key data
generating request;

storing said next use key data in said key
data management table; and

20   transmitting a set of said next use cipher
key and said next use key identifier as a next use
encipherment key data to a request generating deliver
server.

25 49.   The software product according to claim 46,
wherein said program further executes the functions
of:

receiving said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier from a deliver server;

storing in said key data management table;

receiving a next use decipher key and a next

5   use key identifier from said deliver server; and

storing in said key data management table.

50.   The software product according to claim 46, wherein said program further executes the functions

10   of:

storing a current use key remaining effective time data in addition to said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier in said key data management table; and

15   decreasing said current use key remaining effective time data as time elapses; and

reading out said current use decipher key, said current use key identifier and said current use key remaining effective time data in response to a key

20   data request to transmit to a request issuing client.

51.   The software product according to claim 50, wherein said program further executes the functions

of:

25   generating as a current use key data, a set of a current use cipher key, said current use decipher key, said current use key identifier and said current

use key remaining effective time data in response to a

key data generating request;

storing said current use key data in said key

data management table; and

5   transmitting a set of said current use cipher

key and said current use key identifier as a current

use encipherment key data to a request generating

deliver server.

10   52.   The software product according to claim 50,

wherein said program further executes the functions

of:

generating a next use key data of a next use

cipher key, a next use decipher key, a next use key

15   identifier and a next use key remaining effective time

data in response to a next use key data generating

request;

storing said next use key data in said key

data management table; and

20   transmitting a set of said next use cipher

key and said next use key identifier as a current use

encipherment key data to a request generating deliver

server.

25   53.   The software product according to claim 52,

wherein said program further executes the functions

of:

reading out said next use decipher key, said
next use key identifier and said next use key
remaining effective time data in response to a next
use key data request to transmit to a request issuing
5 client.

54.   The software product according to claim 50,
wherein said program further executes the functions
of:

10   receiving said current use decipher key, said
current use key identifier and a current use key
remaining effective time data from a deliver server;
          storing in said key data management table;
          receiving a next use decipher key, a next use
15 key identifier and a next use key remaining effective
time data from said deliver server; and
          storing in said key data management table.

55.   The software product according to claim 54,
20 wherein said program further executes the functions
of:
          transmitting a set of said next use cipher
key, said next use key identifier and said next use
key remaining effective time data as a next use
25 encipherment key data to a request generating deliver
server.

56.   The software product according to claim 46, wherein said program further executes the functions of:

detecting a data amount of said multicast
5   packets and charging a fee to said client terminal based on said detected data amount.

57.   The software product according to claim 46, wherein said program further executes the functions
10 of:

detecting the number of said key data requests and charging a fee to said client terminal based on said detected number of key data requests.

15 58.   A software product executable by a computer and storing a program executing the functions of:

storing a current use decipher key and a current use key identifier for said current use decipher key in a key data management table; and
20   issuing a current use key data request to acquire a current use key data of said current use decipher key and said current use key identifier, stores said current use key data in said key data management table;

25   determining whether a transmission key identifier contained in a multicast packet with an enciphered data is present in said key data management

table;

deciphering said enciphered data by using
said decipher key stored in said key data management,
when it is determined that said transmission key
5 identifier is present;

issuing a next use key data request to
acquire a next use key data of a next use decipher key
and a next use key identifier, when it is determined
that said transmission key identifier is not present;
10 and

storing said next use key data in said key
data management table.

59.   The software product according to claim 58,
15 wherein said program further executes the functions
of:

storing a current use key remaining effective
time data in addition to said current use decipher key
and said current use key identifier in said key data
20 management table;

decreasing said current use key remaining
effective time data as time elapses;

issuing said next use key data request when
said current use key remaining effective time data
25 becomes a predetermined value;

acquiring said next use key data of said next
use decipher key and said next use key identifier; and

storing said next use key data in said key

data management table.

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